



2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus - Producing methane from farm animal waste and converting it to usable energy offers potential economic and environmental benefits for agricultural producers and their communities. At the Haubenschild dairy farm located 60 miles north of St. Paul near Princeton these benefits are being demonstrated. In a partnership between several state and federal agencies, and the local electric cooperative, Dennis Haubenschild has constructed an anaerobic digester. The digester converts manure from his 600 cow dairy operation into 2600 kilowatt-hours of electricity per day. This amount of electricity supplies approximately 90% of the farm's annual energy needs along with that needed for additional 40 homes. EQIP has assisted the operation by providing funds to determine the nutrient value of the bio-solid waste. This bio-solid material is spread on cropland and used to help produce feed for the dairy cows. In the picture at the right Dennis Haubenschild is explaining the dairy's operation to Congressman James Oberstar who represents Minnesota's eighth Congressional District and co-hosted one of the many tours of this unique farm.

Minnesota Summary

Overview

In Minnesota, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$9 million dollars were submitted by 417 landowners. The Minnesota FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$4,500,000. This is a shortfall by approximately 50% to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 305 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated the entire amount of allocated financial assistance funds. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees in Minnesota devoted over 50,000 hours to administer and provide technical assistance for EQIP in FY 2001.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Minnesota through 169 participants located in 20 geographic Conservation Priority Areas (CPA) and 136 participants in statewide Natural Resource Concern (NRC) projects. About \$3,000,000 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in CPAs and \$1,500,00 obligated in statewide NRC projects. The average contract approval was for approximately \$15,000. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 80,000 acres throughout the State. In addition to financial assistance, approximately \$90,000 in EQIP education funds were allocated toward awarding grants to organizations and groups promoting resource conservation throughout the state.

Outlook

Based on participation and landowner interest, EQIP continues to be a tremendous success in Minnesota. With an unmet need of landowner applications totaling nearly the amount of funding approved there is clearly a need for program support to address our state's significant resource concerns.

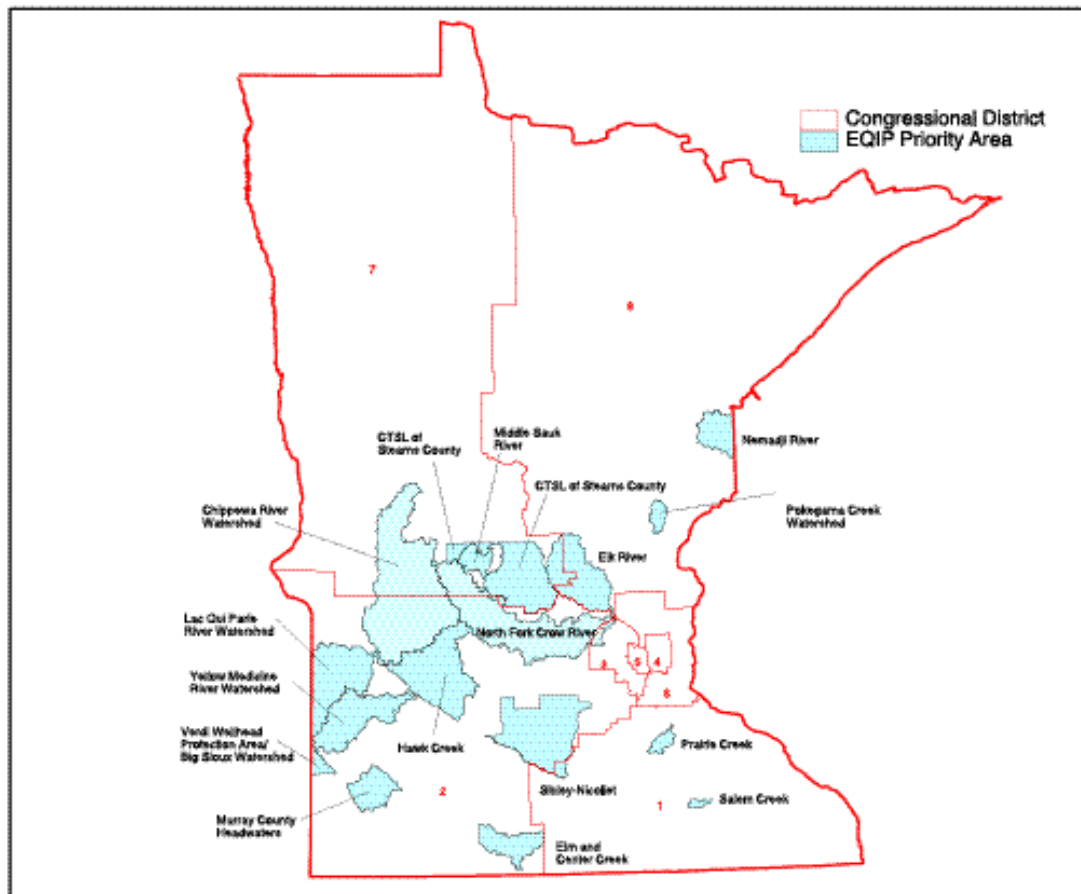
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Minnesota EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Minnesota EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0			\$5,237,843	387
District 1	\$742,401	58	\$5,820,791	298
District 2	\$1,826,837	125	\$5,558,997	334
District 3	\$66,795	7	\$237,059	24
District 5	\$8950	1	\$162,533	23
District 7	\$1,128,440	58	\$4,144,004	176
District 8	\$766,377	56	\$1,649,969	95
Totals	\$4,539,799	305	\$22,811,195	1337

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one District. Congressional District 0 are those EQIP contracts which may be in multiple Districts or are not more precisely known.

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